

Anarchist Communist Federation (ACF)

INTERNAL DISCUSSION

BULLETIN

VOL.1 #1 MAY-1978



RESURGENCE--Chicago, Ill.

Friends,

This is just a short note to let everyone know what's happening here. For those that are interested, issue #3 of Self-Management Newsletter is currently being printed by the Champaign group and should be out shortly. The justified-column text of the Principles is nearly completed and we'll send that to Champaign shortly. We are sending copies of an article titled "Red Bureaucracy" which we wish to be made into an ACF pamphlet. Things are still up in the air about the SRAF conference site, since we lost our original site three weeks ago (right after we got back from Ann Arbor). Anyone planning to come to the SRAF conference should let us know, so we can keep you posted.

'Til later,

Jeff Stein, Resurgence

Libertarian Workers Group-Passaic,
New Jersey.

Dear Comrades,

This is to report that the Libertarian Workers Group (in cooperation with the libertarian socialist newspaper AGAINST THE GRAIN and the libertarian education center FREE ASSOCIATION) will be sponsoring a May

TORONTO ANARCHIST LEAGUE--Toronto,
Ont.

Comrades,

In accordance with the suggestion made at the Ann Arbor conference we are planning a demonstration in conjunction with the Hamilton group to protest the treatment of anarchists in Bulgaria. This has been tentatively scheduled for Sat. May 6, please put in a notice asking groups who wish to co-operate in this action to get in touch with either TAL or the Hamilton group. Also we are putting out a pamphlet on the Bulgarian situation, if anyone is interested in sharing printing costs or receiving copies for their own duplication please let us know.

Day affair on April 28.

The affair will be held at the FREE ASSOCIATION in New York City and will feature speakers, food and music. The topics the speakers will speak about include: The relevance of Anarchism in a modern society, the history of May Day and Anarcho-Syndicalism.

Due to the fact that this event will have already occurred by the time the Internal Bulletin reaches all the

federated groups a full report of this event will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

in solidarity,
Mitchell Miller

Most of the comrades receiving this bulletin have probably already discussed the ANN ARBOR meeting and the Principles that we agreed to. However we thought we should restate what tasks various groups have taken on within the ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION.

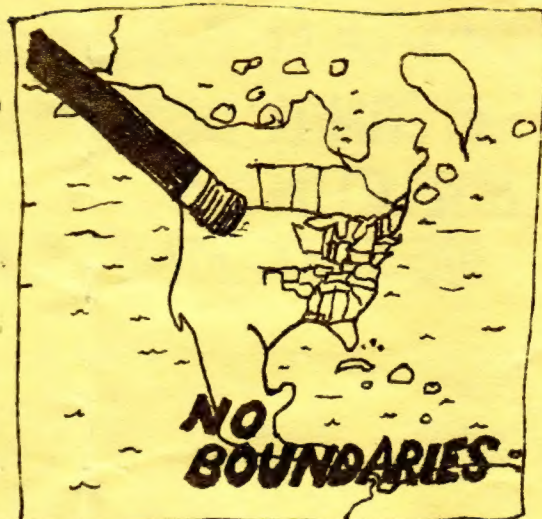
The Ann Arbor conferees and delegates decided that Federation meetings should occur twice a year. TOTALLY ECLIPSED volunteered to host the next ACF meeting in Hamilton, Ont. on August 26-27.

Correspondence was a responsibility outlined in the Principles for a task group. This refers to maintaining communications with external groups. The CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ACF agreed to act as the correspondence group.

Since one of the commitments of Federation member groups was to provide a financial underpinning to our work, the mechanics of finances was taken on for the duration (one year) by REGINA ACF.

Finally, RASCAL here in Morgantown will be publishing the bulletin for internal discussion for Federation groups.

Addresses for the task groups and member groups/tentative member groups are included elsewhere in this issue.



C.U. ACF-Champaign-Urbana,
Illinois

April 1978 March report of the external correspondence group to the Anarchist Communist Federation-Friends and Comrades,

There is no incoming correspondence to report. The only outgoing mail for the month of March was the letter that was approved at the Ann Arbor conference and sent to CRIFA.

We spent the month of March primarily in defining what we think our duties and responsibilities to the Federation are. The paper on internal organization lays out the general responsibilities of the external correspondence group, but it does not give any details or specifics. We felt that the primary task before us was to give details and specifics to this group, and then to ask the Federation for additions and subtractions and approval. What follows then is our "job description". It would be helpful if all affiliated groups make their feelings known in the next bulletin. In

C-U ACF CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

TOTALLY ECLIPSED-

Hamilton, Ontario

Comrades,

In this first letter to our internal bulletin, I'm going to deal with the projects I proposed at the conference, suggested federation pamphlets and our most recent activities.

One thing I proposed we work on was the defense work for imprisoned AIM militant Leonard Peltier. Unfortunately I have gotten absolutely nowhere in terms of breaking ground on this matter. Despite a number of phone calls to people in Toronto who should have helped me but didn't and other attempts to gain information I have received no responses. The only thing I can suggest is for someone who knows the address of the defense committee in the US to pass it on to me then I'll see where I can get.

My proposal of solidarity work for our comrades in Bulgaria has proven to be much more worthwhile. We and the Toronto anarchists plan to set up a picket line in front of either the Bulgarian consul or trade offices on May 6th. Hopefully other ACF groups can do similar actions where they are.

Briefly, here is some background material regarding the Bulgarian anarchists. My sources of information are the Open Road #4, Zero #3 and the Industrial Defense Bulletin, Vol. 4 #3. For those interested an excellent long range analysis is provided in the latest Cienfuegos Press Review. If people wish to see this but do not have the CPR, I will xerox the article and mail it upon request. Also, two of the Toronto Anarchists are going to produce a pamphlet on the Bulgarian anarchist



movement.

In Bulgaria, there are an estimated 10,000 political prisoners. Some of these people have been in prison for as long as 20 years. Some of them have been in solitary for over 6 years. Among the most persecuted have been the Anarchists. Kirsto Kolev, 66, exemplifies this. Since the Stalinist takeover following WWII he has spent 11 years in prison and labor camps for Anarchist agitation, involvement in "illegal" strikes and other workers struggles.

The Stalinists have also made it common practice to exile arrested Anarchists to obscure parts of the country where they will remain isolated from the general population. This has been the fate of Kristo Kolev who has been retired and banished to an obscure native village where he has been for over three years now. Apparently undaunted by past persecution, Kristo made an inflammatory speech at the funeral of a comrade.

Other comrades in prison, whose names I have found, are Alexander Nakov, Atamas Kucev, Lubomir Djermanov, Gautcho Damainov, and Antomsa Artukov.

Ample evidence exists to show that despite two decades of Stalinism the movement continues to fight on. The arrest of 25 Anarchists in 1974 made this clear as do statements by people who have visited Bulgaria who have testified to the fact that Anarcho-Syndicalism is still an active tendency within the working class there. Incidentally the anarcho-syndicalists' organization is the Bulgarian CNT. The other major anarchist tendency is the Bulgarian ACF.

Solidarity work here has a precedent from which to follow in Europe. For many years now the Bulgarian movement has had an exile organization. Also there was a picket line outside the Bulgarian consul in London, England on Sept. 10-11 which involved about 30 anarchists and other libertarians. One of whom was busted. Given this we have before us the opportunity to greatly expand the scale of solidarity work. The pickets which will appear on May 6 can be the first shot in a protracted war against the Stalinist scourge in Bulgaria and in support of the libertarian movement there.

As of this writing it is a certainty that there will be a June federal election in Canada and the prospects for a co-ordinated anti-election campaign are good with definite interest existing in the following cities: Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catherines, Regina and possibly Vancouver. By the time this bulletin is mailed we in *Totally Eclipsed* expect to have a poster made for this purpose.

At the most recent *Totally Eclipsed* meeting we discussed the suggestion of proposing pamphlets for the federation to reproduce for mass distribution and came up with the following titles. 'Vote? What For?' by Malatesta. 'Trade Unions or Syndicalism' by Tom Brown. 'Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution' by Maximoff. 'The Paris Commune and the Idea of the State' by Bakunin. 'The State: Its Historic Role' by Kropotkin. 'The Reproduction of Daily Life' by Fredy Perlman. 'Ten Days That Shook



the University: On the Poverty of Student Life' by the Situationist International. 'Poland 1976: State Capitalism in Crisis' by myself.

An important part of discussion revolved around the fact that there isn't much in the way of new theoretical works coming from the international anarchist movement. Given this we collectively feel that stress should be given to producing our own works and that above all else, was the reason why the article I wrote on Poland was included in our suggestions. It should also be mentioned that we felt that Sam Dolgoff's recent pamphlet should not be included since many of us had major objections to its contents.

The activities we have been involved in include the following. On March 11 we linked up with the Toronto anarchists to form a contingent in the Int. Womens' Day Demo which was 1500 strong, the biggest womens' action ever in Toronto. Much attention was drawn to the six black flags we carried and the leaflet which one of the women in our collective wrote. The leaflet received many favourable comments and several hundred copies were passed out. It is available upon request.

Also in regard to women one of our members was involved in successful drive to organize the nurses at a home for the elderly. She was also involved in an organizing drive involving bus drivers, mostly wo-

men, at the Steel Co. of Canada.

North of London, Ontario there is a strike going on involving women workers at a plant which makes automotive wiring. The Fleck strike is the first attempt at a contract in this newly organized UAW shop and has brought the UAW into direct confrontation with the police as there have been mass pickets to counteract police aided strike-breaking. The Ford plant at Oakville, near Toronto, will play a critical role in this strike as the union there has been demanding the company stop buying automotive wiring from the Fleck plant. It may back up its demand by shutting down the plant for a day and having a mass picket outside the plant at which Dennis McDermott, who heads the UAW in Canada and who was just elected CLC president, may participate. Members of our collective are likely to take part and I intend to raise a stink at my local for the refusal of "our" right wing president to actively support the Fleck workers.

Elsewhere. Members of our collective continue to participate in anti-apartheid work in the Hamilton area. Recent activities have included a protest to commemorate the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre and exposure of how Canadian banks have helped to finance the South African government. Our people have consistently struggled to make sure the campaign is unflinchingly anti-capitalist in character, that it consistently points up the revolutionary potential that exists due to the fact that there is a large working class in South Africa and that it doesn't cater to liberalism as some of the Trots would have it, notably

the Canadian section of the Fourth International.

Members of our collective have also taken part in and conducted lectures and seminars on the situation in Southern Africa.

We are also getting involved in work relating to the high unemployment levels here. However, in doing so we have faced manipulation by the C.P., Stalinist smearing of other tendencies and the C.P.'s catering to the most reformist elements in the unions and even to



obnoxious organizations like the Salvation Army!

About the only other things that could be mentioned are our participation in a benefit for the coal miners which raised \$340. and the fact that we will be making the most out of May Day this year with another picnic, participation in a May Day demo in Buffalo organized by our comrades in Rochester, and possibly by 1 or 2 of us going to Montreal.

Love & Total

Revolution, Bruce

P.S.-In England there is a new movement called the Anarchist Communist Association- c/o Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper St. London N1
We should contact them.

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Regina ACF-Regina, Saskatchewan.

Greetings,

We in Regina are a faction within the core group of the Regina Anarchist Federation. The Regina ACF consists of three people, the minimum for an ACF group. Most of our activities will be done in conjunction with the rest of the group and its affiliates. We have settled on the term "Regina ACF" as an operational label when working on behalf of the federation.

We have taken our responsibilities as your financial group quite seriously and will do everything in our power to promote the smooth operation of the federation. To this end confirmation of payments, or alternatively, reminders to pay will be sent every month 5-7 days after the deadline. Our first financial report will be given on June 1 and late payments will not be included, so for the sake of looking good, please send your dues on time. It takes up to five days for some mail to reach us. We extend our thanks to those who have shown their responsibility in this regard and although response has been good it must be at least complete to ensure the smooth functioning of the ACF's projects.

The R.A.F./R.A.G. has produced about 35 leaflets and other materials in the 9 months since its inception. Our latest endeavors include changes in the internal organization of the group (again) and a public film on South Africa. The

ACF subgroup has put out an ACF poster for submission to the other ACF groups as well as making all preparations for the tasks of a financial group.

As a group within the ACF, we would like to see the ACF take up an extensive activist role.

Fraternally, Regina ACF

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the meantime we will be operating under these guidelines.

We decided that external correspondence falls basically into these categories.

- 1) International correspondence from other anarchist communist federations, libertarian networks and groups.
- 2) Continental correspondence from non-affiliated anarchist and libertarian groups and organizations, as well as non-anarchist radical groups.
- 3) From individuals.

We see these groups and individuals corresponding with us for the following reasons:

- 1) To ask for information concerning our Federation and our activities.
- 2) To tell us about their organizations.
- 3) To request aid and support.

We feel that all correspondence to the Federation should be reported, but that it is not necessary for all correspondence to be reprinted in the bulletin. We propose the following.

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1) Correspondence from anarchist federations and groups both internationally and from N.America will be transmitted in their entirety to the Federation through the bulletin. (NOTE: We are able to translate some European languages, but it would be quite helpful if everyone who is competent to translate any language contact us so that if we can't translate something we can get it to someone who can.)

2) Correspondence from any group or individual requesting aid or support from the Federation will

ACF GROUPS

REGINA ACF

BOX 3658

Regina, Sask. S4P 3N8

Phone: (306) 527-5461

Federation Financial Group

TORONTO ANARCHIST LEAGUE **

Postal Station O

Box 2 Toronto, Ont.

Phone: (416) 694-0098

TOTALLY ECLIPSED

P.O. Box 223, Jordan Station,

Toronto, Ontario L0R 1S0

Phone: (416) 526-9618

ACF Conference Group

ANN ARBOR ACF

221 West Ann

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Phone: (313) 668-6816

RESURGENCE

P.O. Box 801

Evanston, Ill. 60204

Phone: (312) 262-0933

also be transmitted in its entirety.

3) Correspondence seeking information about the Federation and our activities will be reported to the bulletin.

4) Correspondence of an informational nature will be summarized, and the summaries will be transmitted to the bulletin.

All correspondence to the Federation will be kept on file, and will be available upon request, as well as for review at the semi-annual conferences. Replies to all correspondence will be dealt with in the same manner as the correspondence that we receive. In other words, letters that are reprinted in full in the bulletin,

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CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ACF

P.O. 2076 Station A,

Champaign, Ill. 61820

Phone: (217) 384-8080 or

(217) 344-4257

ACF Correspondence/Translation Group

LIBERTARIAN WORKERS GROUP**

287 Passaic Ave.

Passaic, NJ 07055

Phone: (201) 773-9077

SYNDICALIST ALLIANCE

Box 92246

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Phone: (414) 765-9440

MAYDAY

P.O. Box 176

Evanston, Ill. 60204

Phone: (312) 334-4544

(312) 667-3193

RASCAL

1248 Carlisle

Morgantown, W.V. 26505

304-2925896

internal bulletin group

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 our replies will also be reprinted in full. For those letters that are simply summarized or reported the replies will also be simply summarized or reported in the bulletin. We understand that we have the responsibility to reply to correspondence that may require Federation action by notifying the sender that their request is being considered by the Federation.

So far we have only covered that correspondence which comes to us, not correspondence that we, i.e. the Federation initiates. We feel that this type of correspondence is of the utmost importance. At present the only type of correspondence that we (the C-U group) will be initiating is of an informational nature, which is telling people and groups of our existence. We are basing this letter on the letter that was approved at Ann

RASCAL-Morgantown, West Virginia

We've assumed the 1-year responsibility of producing the ACF internal bulletin. Send in news of the federation's activities. We need graphics and artwork to make the bulletin attractive. Please try to edit your own communications.

Rascal will be starting a study group soon. We will read mostly articles by modern libertarians in an activist framework, plus theoretical things. We have a comrade downstate who is also starting a study group with a few people.

We are planning to contact Rita Brown, the George Jackson Brigade member, who is an anarchist communist, lesbian activist. She is in Alderson Federal Womens' Pri-

son and sent to CRIFA. We would like all groups to send us a list of all groups and individuals that should be sent this letter.

As well as getting a list of translators together, we would also like to get a libertarian mailing list together. So if you can send us this information, we would be in much better shape to initiate correspondence.



One final point, all expenses will be reported monthly as well as semi-annually at the conferences. In Solidarity

SYNDICALIST ALLIANCE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

At about the time we were putting the bulletin together, we heard from the Syndicalist Alliance. They were about to launch a weekly newspaper in Milwaukee. Contact them for copies and details.

son at Alderson, West Virginia. The Catholic Worker people have a hospitality house there for visitors to the prison. We plan to set up arrangements for any possible visitors to Rita and for literature she might want. There are other political prisoners there as well.

Once again on the bulletin: send your contributions and criticisms to us, we'll surely make mistakes: ~~---~~